

DOCKET NO: 278647US6PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
MINORU MIZUSAWA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: MERKLING, MATTHEW J.  
SERIAL NO: 10/553,036 :  
FILED: OCTOBER 11, 2005 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1795  
FOR: FUEL REFORMING APPARATUS :  
AND METHOD FOR STARTING SAID  
FUEL REFORMING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement ("Requirement") dated December 10, 2008, Applicants elect Group II, listed in the Requirement as readable on Claim 20, and Applicants list Claim 20 as readable thereon.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, an action on all of Claims 1-20 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/553,036  
Reply to Office Action of December 10, 2008

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

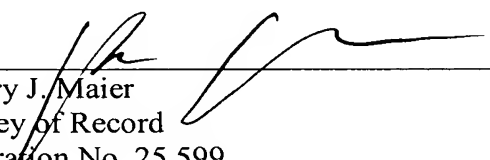
Respectfully submitted,

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